

An innocent in prison?

Each reader must know a child 2 1/2 years old. Imagine tormenting that child, shortly after her mommy just up and disappeared, that her daddy had caused her mommy to be gone and how they had to find the body to punish her "bad daddy."

It was all about nailing the smug and arrogant David Bush, a guy who had three affairs going at the same time when most of the law enforcement officers could do no better than one. One of the CPD officers, when questioning David Bush's young half-brother Todd, told Todd if they could nail David, he would want the prosecution to pursue the death penalty. No appeals, no delays. Just kill him.

Nice way to get information from a younger sibling who adored his older brother.

The prosecution had prepared witnesses to say what would help their case but it didn't always work. When the DA questioned David Bush's father, pretty much estranged from David his whole life - once turning the young boy (11 or so) over to authorities when David had run away from an abusive stepfather and David was placed in St. Joseph's Home in Torrington. Such love! This exchange took place:

Q. And you recall, in the same statement to Mr. McMullin, David saying he would have to retrain his daughter for a new mother?

A. Don't remember.

One of David's mistresses gave damning testimony against him at trial, even though she steadfastly defended him for the two years they lived together after Lynn Bush had disappeared. And later. They had split up in late 1992. In 2006, she was granted immunity. She then remembered things she had never said before.

Even though David Bush allegedly said to her (according to her in 2006 but not in '90, '91 or '92), from a card party he held the night Lynn disappeared, "It's done. She's gone." Yet, she moved in with him, helped the authorities try to entrap him with incriminating statements (by allowing herself to be "wired" in a motel room), after all the opportunities she had to help, she didn't tell anyone about the terminally incriminating statements for 15 years - until March 11, 2006.

She (Trudy Dooling) testified that he had also told her: "That he had buried her in roadwork out in front of his house." She was making stuff up to help authorities. But, that scenario didn't fit with what they had coached the little girl to say about "the mountains" so those words were dropped like a hot potato. Did they notice any fresh digging near his house back in 1990? Or didn't they bother looking for something that obvious? They knew it wasn't true so they didn't pursue it.

When asked if David had ever told her that he had killed Lynn, Trudy answered:

A. Never -- he never admitted to killing her."

When questioned in 2004 and 2005, Trudy had said she didn't take his comments about killing Lynn seriously, "he was always cynical and sarcastic." She didn't take his words seriously until just before the trial, when the prosecution needed her testimony to bolster the unrecorded words of the little girl - that her daddy had "hurt my mommy."

When little Misty started counseling, she saw a male psychologist for three months. She said nothing incriminating about her dad and the in-laws changed professionals. To a woman, they said, because Misty might relate better to her. That woman, Lynn Gordon, also knew that if she didn't come up with words to satisfy law enforcement and Lynn Bush's family, she would also be dismissed.

Ms. Gordon started to counsel Misty a month before the little girl's third birthday. She disagreed with the defense attorney that she was working in concert with law enforcement (which would have changed her right to testify in this case).

When Gordon said she was independent, that she was providing "treatment" for the little girl, she was asked about contacts with police and said they were basically minimal. Then she was asked about sending an 88 page fax to the DA's office on May 8, 1992. She said she was "just asking what they knew about Misty" that might aid her in her treatment program.

This woman repeatedly asked Misty:

Q. Did you see mommy die?
A. No, but my mommy is dead.

Gordon diagnosed Misty with PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) and clung to her conclusion that it was brought on by watching her mommy be killed, even though Misty never told her that she had seen her mommy killed.

Both this psychologist and the psychiatrist that was brought in during the custody dispute, admitted that PTSD can also be the result of being told repeatedly (by others) of a traumatic event.

Here was a little girl who had her beloved mother disappear, without notice or warning, without a goodbye to the little girl who was the center of mommy's universe, and no one could explain to her why her mommy left so suddenly nor when she'd be back - a little girl who would literally be snatched from her father's arms, screaming for her daddy and taken to DFS without explanation or being told when she would again see her daddy (according to David Bush, Misty was taken from his arms by officers with drawn guns, one placed under his chin by an officer who seemed to be trying to incite violence on the part of David Bush) - and then placed in the comfort and wealth of her maternal grandparents without being allowed to see her daddy for months - and then having her name changed from Misty Bush to Misty Knievel. All of this would not have been as likely to bring on PTSD as allegedly seeing some part of her mother's disappearance - which she continually denied witnessing?

I do not like to write anything that reflects badly on the little girl. She was made a pawn by those trying desperately to charge and convict her daddy of killing her mommy and getting rid of the body in a myriad of ways. But, there were things said by the child that went unnoticed at trial or were not introduced.

Once, when she said her mommy was in two holes, she added, "there's a monster in there."

When questioning Ms. Gordon about her leading Misty to believe there had been blood on her mommy even though Misty had said repeatedly there wasn't:

Q. [You asked] How did all the blood get wiped off, after Misty said she hadn't seen any blood?

Q. Your question could leave ... lead a little girl to believe that you didn't accept her first answer.

A. It might.

A. (reading from DSM-IV-TR, a professional Bible) "It is extremely typical of children to say what they perceive the adult of the situation wants them to say."

Q. Especially if the same question is put to them repeatedly, correct?

A. Correct.

Q. On numerous occasions, she told you that she did not see her daddy hurt her mommy, correct?

A. Several. Not numerous. When you refer to numerous, more than 70%.

But, in sessions on 7/27/91, 9/16/91, 11/27/91, 12/13/91, 12/20/91 and 1/10/92, when asked if she had seen her daddy hurt her mommy, Misty had said "no."

Q. How many times did Misty say she saw her daddy hurt her mommy?

A. Sir, I have not counted the number of times.

Q. Well, you put them all in your report, didn't you?

A. Sir, I did not count the number of times.

Q. So you do not know how many times?

A. Not now, no.

While the psychologist testified that her asking leading questions would not affect Misty's responses, she also testified that when David "consistently replied with questions such as, who told you to say that" that did lead Misty to change her responses from "Misty did" to "Grandma did." David's challenges came when Misty said "you hurt mommy" at their meetings in the psychologist's office. *More to come. It gets even worse.*

New DDA Executive Director

After several years of inertia, there is finally a chance to move the downtown into the 21st Century. At least a chance.

But, what are the odds of upgrading the holder of the position of executive director? If the board fears hiring someone who could actually do the job and uses the well-paying position instead to reward an unemployed friend, nothing positive will happen. No improvement will come.

In an effort to read the job description for the position to be filled, I went to the DDA website. It's no wonder the downtown has stagnated in the past eight years. Anyone considering opening a business down there and first went to the DDA website to get a flavor for what their success potential would be downtown would scrub their interest upon downloading.

The presentation begins with a fictional "Boots Walker" telling those who found the website that there are "a million things to do downtown." What? A million?

The website displays a "proposed ordinance" that was rejected by the City governing body over two years ago. Do they not know (the DDA board) that the ordinance was not approved or are they trying to discourage anyone from locating a business in the downtown?

On another issue - when describing the very popular Farmer's Market, the DDA website reads: "explore a varied display of fresh local produce ..." There is very little local produce at the Farmer's Market. We just don't have the soil around here to grow the crops. Most comes from Colorado or a wholesaler from Utah.

If the proposed design guidelines ordinance (that failed and is inoperative) doesn't revolt, one can link to a 2006 Downtown Plan that was also ignored and never approved or implemented.

One of the requirements for the executive director's position is a "four year degree." It does not say "from an accredited university" so there may be a candidate in mind that has a degree from Kennedy-Western or Preston University, once darlings of the insiders but degree sellers, not accredited institutions. Salary range is \$55,000 - \$90,000 with a one year contract. That should satisfy a lot of friends. There is no way the job will attract candidates with the desired experience and qualifications. No way.



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